

Donald Girdler made an everlasting contribution to the world of Kentucky politics, and his motivation and innovation paved the way for others to get involved in their own way by bringing opportunities and jobs to the Pulaski County area. Donnie loved working in politics. He loved serving the public, but he was happiest when he was at his farmhouse in Nancy, KY, and he could fix up a pot of coffee and talk politics with his friends that would drop by from time to time.

At this time I would like to ask my colleagues in the Senate to join me in commemorating Donald E. Girdler, an individual whose hard work and upstanding character, combined with his talents and passion, have forever changed the climate of politics in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

A news story highlighting the eventful life of Donnie Girdler was recently published in the Somerset, KY, area publication, the Commonwealth Journal.

I ask unanimous consent that said story be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Commonwealth Journal, Jan. 9, 2012]

POLITICAL ICON DONNIE GIRDLER DEAD AT 63
(By Bill Mardis)

A longtime aide to Congressman Hal Rogers and one of the Lake Cumberland area's most savvy political strategists has died.

Donnie Girdler's death Sunday ended a career that evolved through service in the military, local law enforcement, congressional front man, and political adviser to candidates and confidant to presidents. He was 63.

"As one who knew him for 37 years, I will say he was highly motivated," said Dan Venters, justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court.

"I have known Donnie Girdler as long as I have known anyone in Pulaski County," said Venters. "When I first came here to work in (then) Commonwealth's Attorney Hal Rogers's office, Donnie was the first person I met. He was serving as Commonwealth's detective in Hal's office."

"There was something about us that bonded . . . he became one of my closest friends and confidants," said Venters.

Girdler worked for Congressman Rogers for more than a quarter of a century.

"Donnie was one of my closest advisers and served faithfully as a field representative for the Fifth Congressional District," said Rogers. "As a retired member of the honorable U.S. Marine Corps and a former Commonwealth's detective, Donnie was a man of integrity and loyalty."

"With courage of conviction, Donnie played a key role in bringing various opportunities and projects to the region. But it was his passion for politics that many sought during campaigns. His political savvy and insight were invaluable to local, state and federal politicians. He was a true patriot and a true friend," said Rogers.

Girdler was a friend of presidents. He was personally acquainted with five presidents and was a friend of the two Bushes—George W. Bush and his father, George H.W. Bush. He worked in Bob Dole's presidential campaign and was a presidential elector for George W. Bush.

Locally, Girdler managed the successful campaign of Pulaski County Judge-Execu-

tive Barty Bullock and served as Bullock's deputy judge for a year and a half.

"I am very saddened by the recent passing of Donnie Girdler," Bullock said in a statement. "I first met him when I ran for county judge-executive in 2006. As we worked and spent numerous hours together, we became very good friends."

"Since the onset of his illness we have not had as much communication as in the past, but I still think of our friendship fondly. I know that Donnie had many friends, and will be sadly missed by all who knew him," Bullock said.

A political consultant since leaving Congressman Rogers's office, Girdler developed close friendships with politicians and officeholders in wide areas, particularly in McCreary, Whitley, Clay and Knox counties.

Said Lori Hines, a political partner, "He had a great insight into the human mind. He knew how people would react more than anyone I have ever known. He definitely was a people person. His voice was what defined him. People would stop at his farmhouse in Nancy, have a cup of coffee and talk politics," said Hines.

Girdler has been nominated as a member of the Republican Fifth District Hall of Fame. He will be inducted posthumously in March.

His body is at Pulaski Funeral Home where funeral arrangements are pending. A complete obituary will be in Wednesday's Commonwealth Journal.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JOHN BROOKMAN PERRY

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to honor the memory of a man whose life was dedicated to serving his community and protecting his fellow citizens. One year ago today, Deputy U.S. Marshal John Brookman Perry was killed in the line of duty while serving his country and community. Deputy Perry was assigned to the U.S. Marshals Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis and was serving a warrant when he was fatally shot. Today we honor his memory and the sacrifices he made for all of us.

Deputy Perry was born on the west side of Chicago in Glen Ellyn, IL, and graduated from Southern Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in geology. He went to work for the Madison County probation office in Edwardsville, IL where he served for 16 years.

In 2001 he graduated from the U.S. Marshals Academy and went to work at the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Deputy Perry returned to the Midwest in 2005 when he was assigned to the Eastern District in St. Louis. There, he served as a team leader on the fugitive task force and was the district's firearms instructor.

Deputy Perry came from a family dedicated to public service and was a natural fit for the U.S. Marshals Service. His brother, Bart Perry, has worked for the State of Illinois for over 25 years as a probation officer, and both his father and grandfather were Federal judges. His father served as a bankruptcy court judge and his grandfather was a former coal miner who be-

came a district court judge. As a young boy, Deputy Perry was exposed to the Federal courts and became familiar with the U.S. Marshals Service and their work.

We should never forget the sacrifices that men like Deputy Perry and their families make daily to protect all of us. Our society depends on these dedicated individuals who risk their lives to protect the common good. I want to express my gratitude and thanks and ask the Senate to join me in remembering U.S. Deputy Marshal John Brookman Perry.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:01 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2842. An act to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydro-power development under Federal Reclamation law, and for other purposes.

At 3:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3606. An act to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies.

The message also announced that pursuant to Executive Order No. 12131, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the President's Export Council: Mr. REICHERT of Washington, Mr. GERLACH of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIBERI of Ohio, Ms. SUTTON of Ohio, and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2842. An act to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydro-power development under Federal Reclamation law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2173. A bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated: